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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 589
By Ford S

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program and to urge Tennessee school systems to use the program.

WHEREAS, since law-abiding Americans own more than 200 million firearms of various types, it is possible that an unsupervised child could come into contact with an unsecured firearm; and

WHEREAS, fortunately, the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program does an excellent job of promoting the prevention of accidents involving firearms through messages aimed at children from pre-kindergarten age through the sixth grade level; and

WHEREAS, the program promotes the simple but important message that when you come into contact with an unsecured firearm you should: "STOP! Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell an adult."; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of this exemplary program in 1988, the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program has successfully reached almost 10 million children by working with thousands of law enforcement agencies, school systems and numerous civic groups in all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, schools and law enforcement agencies and groups such as Drug Awareness and Resistance Education (DARE) who have utilized the program are universal in

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praising its effectiveness and agree that it is the best youth gun safety program available; such groups find the program well-rounded and simple to use; and

WHEREAS, program creator and NRA president Marion P. Hammer received the National Safety Council's 1993 Citation for Outstanding Community Service; and

WHEREAS, the National School Public Relations Association presented the program with its prestigious 1994 Golden Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 1994, the American Legion passed a resolution recognizing the importance of the Eddie Eagle Safety program and encouraging its posts and departments to introduce the program to elementary schools and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the program has also received the American Legion's 1995 National Education Award. The organization's Child Welfare Foundation has awarded the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety program a \$25,000 grant; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council Youth Activities Division presented the program its 1996 Silver Award of Merit; and

WHEREAS, the state legislatures of Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia have passed resolutions strongly recommending the use of the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program. The North Carolina General Assembly has enacted a bill commending the program. The program has also received support from the governors of Florida, Idaho, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program is deserving of special commendation by this body because it helps to save lives and prevent injuries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend the National Rifle Association Eddie Eagle Gun

Safety Program. We strongly urge and recommend that law enforcement agencies and school systems in Tennessee utilize this exemplary program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.